

ROD FIRE PROTECTION ACCREDITATION

Accreditations for Solid Rods in the United Kingdom

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INTRODUCTION

There has been a significant advance in the accreditations for fire protection to solid rods. In May 2020, the BSI published BS EN 13381-10 for solid rods. It is expected this will eventually replace BS 476 part 20 & 21. In the meantime, we would like to give you as much detail as possible to assist you to fully understand the position of the rod fire protection accreditation in the UK.

BS EN 13381-10 2020

This standard was published in July 2020. Unfortunately, the tension element of the standard is yet to be realised. The test houses are not currently able to offer this test in tension.

The ASFP Guidance Note 4 – Loaded Sections for Solid Rods states, ***“This test method uses the principles given in the ASFP Yellow Book and as such the testing can be designed to generate data based on furnace control in accordance with BS 476: Part 20 or EN 13381-8”*** As BS476 part 20-21 does not call for testing in tension then it is argued that this element of the guidance note applies i.e. it can be tested in accordance with either BS476 or BS EN 13381. ***“Similarly if the solid rod test programme is based on BS 476: Part 20-21 testing, then the correction factors from CHS testing must also be based on BS 476: Part 20 testing.”*** In this case we chose to test specifically for solid rods using the principles of BS476 part 20 &21 and BS EN 13381-8 for the geometric positioning of the thermocouples . However, these were point sensors in line with BS 476.

INTERACT'S OWN TESTING

In the case of the Interact range of castings and in particular the solid rods, Interact has specifically tested to BS476 Part 20-21 (Ad-Hoc) and refer you to the ASFP Guidance note 22, ***"The ASFP supports third party (Ad-Hoc) product certification as the most appropriate way of demonstrating the performance of passive fire protection products in the market. Certification is undertaken by independent bodies who verify the quality of the product."***

BS476 is the standard test procedure for hollow sections. This has been the case since 1987. When the standard was first published and when the eventual testing procedure was adopted for solid rods, it became pertinent. The standard was approved for assessing solid rods until a suitable standard (BE EN 13381-10) could be fully implemented. It follows, therefore, that both BS EN 13381-10 and BS 476 -20&21 are Ad-Hoc tests as neither is able to fulfil the exact purpose of the standard in a test (ref: UKCAS).

However, the ASFP fully endorse Ad-Hoc testing when, ***"Third party product certification is the only way of providing architects, specifiers, enforcement authorities and building owners a high level of confidence that products are 'fit for purpose'."***

CONCLUSION

Therefore, as both tests are Ad-Hoc and both tests are valid either standard can be used for fire protection to solid rods. While an assessment, based on hollow section data with corrections, is a valid process of acceptance, why depend on an assessment when an Ad-Hoc test on a specific profile (i.e. solid rods) is more pertinent.

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